JURISDICTION

3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- 4. Section 8620 of the Business and Professions Code (Code) states that the Board may suspend or revoke a license when it finds that the holder, while a licensee or applicant, has committed any acts or omissions constituting cause for disciplinary action or in lieu of a suspension may assess a civil penalty.
 - 5. Section 8625 of the Code states:

"The lapsing or suspension of a license or company registration by operation of law or by order or decision of the board or a court of law, or the voluntary surrender of a license or company registration shall not deprive the board of jurisdiction to proceed with any investigation of or action or disciplinary proceeding against such licensee or company, or to render a decision suspending or revoking such license or registration."

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

- 6. Section 8641 of the Code states that failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter, or any rule or regulation adopted by the board, is a ground for disciplinary action.
- 7. Section 8593, subdivision (a), of the Code states that the board shall require as a condition to the renewal of each operator's and field representative's license that the holder submit proof satisfactory to the board that he or she has informed himself or herself of developments in the field of pest control either by completion of courses of continuing education in pestcontrol approved by the board or equivalent activity approved by the board.
- 8. Section 8637 of the Code states that misrepresentation of a material fact by the applicant in obtaining a license or company registration is a ground for disciplinary action.
 - 9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1950, states, in pertinent part:
 - (a) Except as provided in section 1951, every licensee is required, as a condition to renewal of a license, to certify that he or she has completed the continuing education requirements set forth in this article. A licensee who cannot verify completion of

continuing education by producing certificates of activity completion, whenever requested to do so by the Board, may be subject to disciplinary action under section 8641 of the code.

. . .

(d) Field representatives licensed in one branch of pest control shall have completed 16 continuing education hours, field representatives licensed in two branches of pest control shall have completed 20 continuing education hours, field representatives licensed in three branches of pest control shall have completed 24 continuing education hours during each three year renewal period. In each case, a minimum of four continuing education hours in a technical subject directly related to each branch of pest control held by the licensee must be completed for each branch of pest control licensed, a minimum of two hours in Integrated Pest Management must be completed by Branch 2 and/or 3 licensees renewing on or after June 30, 2010, and a minimum of eight hours must be completed from Board approved courses on the Structural Pest Control Act, the Rules and Regulations, or structural pest control related agencies' rules and regulations.

COST RECOVERY PROVISION

10. Section 125.3 of the Code states, in pertinent part, that a Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 11. Respondent was required to take 16 hours of continuing education during the period of July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013, for renewal of his field representative license.
- 12. On or about August 26, 2013, Respondent signed a Delinquent Renewal Application for his field representative license declaring under penalty of perjury that he had completed the required 16 hours of continuing education.
- 13. Beginning on or about April 25, 2014, Board staff conducted an audit, making repeated requests to Respondent to provide copies of his continuing education certificates for the period of July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013, but to date, Respondent has failed to submit any certificates for the requested period.
- A. On or about April 25, 2014, Board staff mailed Respondent an audit letter informing him that he was selected for a continuing education audit and that he needed to provide copies of his CE course completion certificates for the period of July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013.

- B. On or about May 23, 2014, Respondent left a telephone message to Board staff stating that he was short on continuing education hours. On or about May 27, 2014, Board staff returned Respondent's call, informed him that the Board had not received any certificates from him, and requested that he submit the certificates as soon as possible.
- C. On or around June 17, 2014, and July 29, 2014, Board staff sent new audit letters to Respondent, but Respondent failed to sign for the letters.
- D. On or about August 18, 2014, and September 3, 2014, Board staff left telephone messages for Respondent. The first message requested that Respondent provide his continuing education certificates and the second message informed Respondent that the matter was being forwarded to administration for review. Respondent failed to respond to either message.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Provide Proof of Continuing Education)
(Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 8641 and 8593; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 16, § 1950, subds. (a) and (d))

14. Respondent has subjected his field representative license to discipline because he failed to provide proof of completion of required continuing education. (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 8641 and 8593; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 16, § 1950, subds. (a) and (d).) The circumstances are set forth in paragraphs 11 through 13, above.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE (Misrepresentation of Material Fact in Application) (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 8637)

15. Respondent has subjected his field representative license to discipline because he made a misrepresentation of a material fact in his renewal application for a field representative license when he certified that he had completed the required continuing education. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 8637.) The circumstances are set forth in paragraphs 11 through 13, above.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters alleged in this Accusation, and that following the hearing, the Structural Pest Control Board issue a decision:

1. Revoking or suspending Field Representative License Number FR 37600, issued in Branch 2 to William Henry Stewart III;

1	2. Ordering William Henry Stewart III to pay the Structural Pest Control Board the
2	reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and
3	Professions Code section 125.3;
4	3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
5	
6	DATED: 6915 SURAN SOUND
7	SUSAN SAYLOR Registrar/Executive Officer
8	Structural Pest Control Board Department of Consumer Affairs
9	State of California Complainant
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